Perishing of birds due to flu

†3427. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of birds whose blood samples were sent for testing to the laboratory at HRDDL in Bhopal;

(b) whether blood samples of hundreds of birds killed in the sanctuary in Midnapore district in West Bengal were sent to the said laboratory situated at Bhopal;

(c) if so, the details of report thereof; and

(d) the details of measures taken for prevention of bird flu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) More than 20,000 tissue and serum samples from poultry and migratory birds have been tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal.

(b) and (c) There is no sanctuary in Midnapore district of West Bengal. However, 705 serum samples from migratory birds in wildlife sanctuaries and farm chicken were received from West Bengal during 2004-2005 by High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal. All the samples have been found negative for bird flu.

(d) The Government have taken the following steps to prevent ingress of the disease into the country:

(i) Quarantine activities have been intensified on all ports of entry;

(ii) Restrictions have been imposed on import of all poultry and poultry products from bird flue affected countries since 2004 which is reviewed after every six months;

(iii) Surveillance activities have been intensified in poultry and migratory birds especially around the wetlands and sanctuaries and State governments have been requested to report any incident of suspected bird flu;

(iv) Action Plan has been prepared and circulated to all the States to combat Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (birds flu) in the even of its ingress into the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(v) Rapid Response Teams have been constituted;

(vi) A Central Strategic Reserve of vaccines and personal protective equipment has been developed;

(vii) All relevant information including weekly reports are being hosted on departmental website of Department of Animal Husbandry;

(viii) Training in sample collection and dispatch has been organized for officials of State Animal Husbandry and Forest Departments;

(ix) Coordination mechanism with Health, Environment and Forests, Department of Animal Husbandry and Poultry industry has been put in place. Situation in the country is under constant review and monitoring.

FPIs in Tamil Nadu

3428. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries in the country, State-wise, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned any new projects in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the number of project applications received/sanctioned and those pending during the last four years and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) Sanction of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is not required for establishment of new Food Processing projects. However a plan scheme has been implemented to provide financial assistance for expansion/ establishment/ modernization of FPI units. A statement showing number of applications so far received, assistance sanctioned, applications pending etc. State-wise including Tamil Nadu is enclosed *(See* below). As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, the requisite information about total number of food processing industries